

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 14231 292246Z
ACTION SY-05

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2356

UNCLAS MEXICO 14231

FOR A/SY/FO AND A/FBO FROM RSO

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: ASEC, ABLD
SUBJECT: COUNTER-TERRORISM IMPROVEMENTS, MEXICO CITY

1. THE RECENT INCIDENT OF AN INDIVIDUAL CIRCUMVENTING EMBASSY SECURITY CONTROLS BY CLIMBING THE EXTERIOR FENCE AND GAINING UNNOTICED ACCESS TO THE AMBASSADOR'S SUITE PROMPTED THE EMBASSY TO AGAIN REVIEW ITS SECURITY PROCEDURES. THIS REVIEW WAS CONDUCTED IN LIGHT OF THE PROLONGED AND STILL PENDING PROJECT TO PROVIDE THE POST WITH PUBLIC ACCESS CONTROLS UNDER THE DEPARTMENT'S COUNTER TERRORISM PROGRAM. DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE PUBLIC ACCESS CONTROLS WILL ULTIMATELY PRECLUDE THIS TYPE OF PHYSICAL PENETRATION, THE INCIDENT POINTED OUT OUR URGENT NEED FOR IMMEDIATE SECURITY IMPROVEMENTS.
2. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE COMPLETE PROPOSAL FOR PUBLIC ACCESS CONTROLS IS PRESENTLY PENDING A REVIEW OF THE LATEST REVISIONS TO THE CONSULAR ENTRANCE CONTROL AREA BY SY AND FBO. SINCE IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT IMMEDIATE STEPS BE TAKEN TO IMPROVE OUR SECURITY, WE RECOMMEND THAT THE OVERALL PROPOSAL BE DIVIDED TO PERMIT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THOSE SEGMENTS OF THE PROPOSAL WHICH HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY ALL CONCERNED ELEMENTS. BASED UPON OUR VIEWS OF THE PROJECT AND IN LIGHT WITH OUR IMMEDIATE NEEDS, WE RECOMMEND

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THE PROJECT BE DIVIDED AS FOLLOWS:

- A. ELEVATOR ENCLOSURES AND RELATED MODIFICATIONS FOR THE FIFTH FLOOR.
- B. MSG/RECEPTIONIST BOOTHS AND RELATED MODIFICATIONS TO THE MAIN ENTRANCE, INCLUDING THE PROTECTIVE

"FISHNET" ON THE PLANTA BAJA ARCHES.

C. CONSULAR ENTRANCE REVISIONS.

D. REAR ENTRANCE CONTROLS AND RAMP REVISIONS.

3. UPON RECEIPT OF THOSE PORTIONS OF THE PROPOSAL, WE ARE PREPARED TO SOLICIT BIDS OR TAKE WHATEVER OTHER STEPS NECESSARY TO OBTAIN COST ESTIMATES AND REQUEST FUNDING FROM THE DEPARTMENT. WHILE IT IS RECOGNIZED THAT IMPLEMENTATION OF INDIVIDUAL SEGMENTS OF THIS OVERALL PROPOSAL WILL NOT BE THE FINAL SOLUTION TO OUR PUBLIC ACCESS PROBLEMS, EACH WILL IMPROVE OUR PRESENT STATUS AND ENHANCE OUR SECURITY POSTURE.

4. THE IMPERATIVE NEED FOR IMPROVED EMBASSY SECURITY IS A PRIORITY ITEM OF THE HIGHEST ORDER; WE NEED YOUR IMMEDIATE AND FAVORABLE RESPONSE. MCANINCH

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